

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Sha'Rae J Meade, and I am from West Hartford.

**I stand in support of S.B.284 to Expand the immigrant community's age limit of 8 to 18 years old access to HUSKY regardless of their status because it is important to make sure our immigrant community gets the healthcare we all need and deserve. Our work doesn't end with changing the limit to age 18; we need to provide access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.**

This is personal to me because if I was in the shoes of someone who didn't have health care, I would want the same treatment that everyone else gets. We are all the same and my race or where I'm from or my documentation status shouldn't matter if I'm able to receive medical care.

My own experiences of having healthcare have motivated me to speak out for access to healthcare for all immigrants. This is because everyone should have the right to healthcare. Everyone should be able to get basic healthcare no matter the cost. We all deserve to get the care we need.

Immigrants go through many struggles the average person might not go through. They go through the challenges of facing enrollment barriers, language and literacy challenges, fear, being confused, often not insured, health care costs, and many other things. This legislation would help them because it would provide them with safety and security- a basic human right. It will also help them because so many people delay or go without healthcare because they have to overpay to get good care.

I will be a registered voter in this state and I urge you to do the right thing!

I support S.B. 284 and I would appreciate the committee's support to pass this legislation. Moving forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.

Thank you for your time,  
*Sha'Rae J Meade*